

October 2010

Yuma/La Paz County News

**Yuma/La Paz County
USDA Service Center**

**Yuma/La Paz County
FSA**

2197 S. 4th AVE #104
Yuma, AZ 85364
928-782-0860 (phone)
928-782-0930 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/**

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Mike Blohm
Bill Daily
Joe Martinez
Nathan Rovey
Jesus Tovar

County Committee meets
2nd Tuesday of month

Staff

James Reinertson (CED)
Barb Erlemann
Brenda Raney
Raney Brown



2010 DCP FINAL PAYMENTS

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 1, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive

LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought, or if Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to qualifying fire.

For 2010 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed. Addition information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives, lost due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives. Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov



LETTERS MAILED TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SUBMITTED CCC-927 OR CCC-928

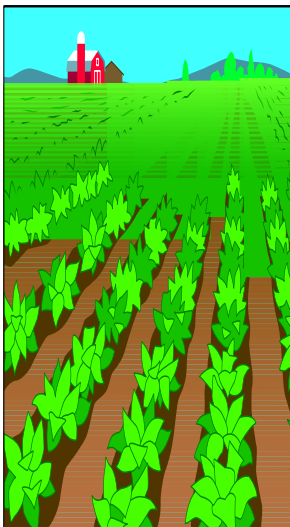
Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.



NEW FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WEB PAGE AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page.

Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and

submit it online

2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver's license

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided, in writing, to the county office.

However, spouses are **NOT** allowed to sign on behalf of the other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. The exception to this is that spouses may sign on behalf of each other for a husband/wife joint venture with a permanent tax ID number and sole proprietorship, unless written notification denying a spouse authority has been provided to the county office.

In addition to policy regarding signature authority for spouses, county offices cannot provide Agency records of a producer to that producer's spouse unless written authority to provide such records has been provided to the county office.

NOTE: A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not:

- Override the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Privacy Act (PA) requirements.
- Entitle a spouse to review or receive Agency records of the other spouse

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

FARM SAFETY TIPS

Don't wear loose clothing around moving machine parts like PTOs, or while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers.

- Use seat belts while operating farm machinery.
- Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
- Be a role model for your children by practicing safety and obeying laws.
- Noise is a common factor in farm-related injuries and can lead to hearing loss. Wear ear protection while working around loud noise.



Visit our Web site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>**

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